



Volume 21 Number 7

Chartered in 1984 as the 300th Grotto of the NSS

August-September, 2006

PBSS Donates to Big Spring State Park



Bill Bentley, President of PBSS, presents a check for \$100 to Ron Alton of the Big Spring State Park. Photo taken at the Sibley Nature Center in Midland.

The Big Spring State Park is part of the Texas Parks and Wildlife system and it has a very small cave called *Ant Bite Cave* located within the park. Ant Bite Cave was visited by PBSS members during the summer BBQ June 24.

Funds set aside for BBQ expenses were donated to the park, with the stipulation that the funds would stay in and be used in park.

Ron Alton wrote:

Dear Mr. Bill Bentley, Thanks so MUCH for the donation to the "People for the Park" Friends Group of the Big Spring State Park. The monies from this account are used to purchase sodas on hot days (we do have a few of those here) when volunteers help us during special events. Also to purchase other items for the park.

Thanks, Ron Alton Park Manager Big Spring SP

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Upcoming Events

Oct. 10: PBSS Monthly meeting at Murray's Deli 3211 W. Wadley in Midland. 7 p.m.

Oct 19: Sibley Learning Center—caving demonstration and information. Contact Bill Bentley.

Oct. 20-22: TCR at Honey Creek Ranch. There will be caving! FMI, visit www.oztotl.com/ter

Oct. 27-29: Blowhole Dig in Edwards County. Contact Barry to sign up at cavelizard.com.

Nov. 4-5: Carlsbad rock haul. Contact Bill Bentley

Nov. 10-12: Big Manhole Dig swcaver@warpdiveonline.com

Dec.16: PBSS Christmas Party at Ess Cave.

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	Vice President:				
	<i>Jacqui Thomas</i>				
	Secretary/ Treasurer				
	<i>Barry Hayes</i>				
	Newsletter:				
	<i>Kel Thomas</i>				

Walter, We Miss You

NSS Annual Convention Report

Two PBSS members made the long journey to Bellingham, WA to attend this year's NSS Convention. Jacqui and Kel Thomas of Sonora were among the 800+ attendees at the annual event.

The August event brought cavers and their families from across the U.S. and Canada. Given the fact that the location was a bit far for most Texas, TAG, and Appalachian Mtn. cavers, the convention was not as heavily attended as some of the past events. However, the grotto charged with all aspects of the convention, Cascade Grotto, did a great job with hosting the convention.

There were many caving trips offered, as well as other activities sponsored by the convention planners. Activities only available in the Pacific Northwest, such as whale watching trips, sea kayaking, and a historical tour of underground Seattle, were just a few of the available adventures.

Jacqui and I participated in a post convention cave trip to "Hell Hole Cave". Hell Hole is an alpine (cold and wet) cave located on Snoqualamie Pass, east of Seattle. A very difficult 2.5 mile hike gaining 2000 feet in vertical elevation, was required to access the entrance. The cave was primarily marble in composition with some small, interesting features.

We also visited Lewis and Clark Caverns in western Montana. The L&C is operated by Montana State Parks as a show cave. It is a very nice cave with large formations and knowledgeable guides.

PBSS Shows Ess Cave to Members of the Permian Basin Outing Club

Submitted by Jacqui Thomas

Trip Report: Ess Cave

08-09 September 2006

PBSS Members present:

Bill Bentley, Barry Hayes, Kel Thomas, Jacqui Thomas

PBOC Members present: Ron Alton, Josh Eilenberger, & youths: Jacob, Sam, Autumn, Megan, Vicky; Charlie and Virginia (Virgil) Burkes; Patrick Dearen, Dick Harris, Sammy Hunnicutt and his son Colin; Carlla McCullough, Don Moore, and Steven Schafersman.

Kel & Jacqui Thomas arrived at Ess before dark Friday and started setting up camp. Bill Bentley arrived shortly thereafter. The evening was spent at the campfire, telling stories and visiting.

Saturday morning Barry arrived first, bringing the ladder to use on the first drop (the second drop, which is much shorter, already has a ladder). As Outing Club members arrived the ladder was installed, helmets were passed around, and lights were checked. Each PBOC member was belayed down the ladder, guided down the second ladder, and led into the cave.

Club members spent different amounts of time in the cave, and there were enough Grotto members to accommodate multiple departures. Ron, Josh, and the youth wandered the cave extensively with Kel and Jacqui, and even squeezed into a couple of holes that blow slightly and seem to lead to an upper chamber. (There are advantages to being young, slender and flexible).

Everyone seemed to have a good experience: When the last group left the cave, one of the young people, beaming, announced, "That was awesome!" As if that wasn't worth the trip right there, PBSS also gained two new members, Sam and Josh Hunnicutt.



September 17 PBSS Meeting Notes

(The meeting was preceded by a hike around the trails of the Wildlife Sanctuary).

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Bentley at 1:16 pm in Sonora on the porch of the Eaton House in the Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary.

Five members were present: Bill Bentley, Barry & Donna Hayes, Kel & Jacqui Thomas

Since the last meeting, the money we voted to donate to Big Spring State Park was presented to Ron Alton of the Park.

Blowhole dig dates were discussed and the next dig was set for Saturday, October 28. Fundraising ideas for the Grotto were also discussed, and will be discussed further at a later date.

Kel Thomas volunteered to take over publication of the Hole News and his offer was accepted.

Members shared several observations, all favorable, regarding our successful trip to Ess Cave with the Permian Basin Outing Club. Two of the Outing Club members who caved at Ess have joined PBSS—Sam Hunnicutt and his son, Colin.

Attending grotto members donated lunch money to the Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary and Jacqui will make sure it's presented to Delyse Jaeger, who is in charge of the Sanctuary. Members met Delyse, as she stopped by the house while we were there.

We discussed inviting a skilled survey person to give a class at Ess Cave, to increase our surveying skills in case we decide to take on the resurvey of Ess Cave. We also discussed acquiring survey instruments for the grotto and Bill will look into instrument options.

The Cowtown Grotto has asked that we exchange hard copy newsletters. It was agreed that since the Hole News goes online in a timely manner, there is no reason to add to our postage costs by mailing additional copies.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 pm.

The next meeting of the Permian Basin Speleological Society will be at Murray 's Delicatessen Tuesday October 10 at 7:00 pm.

Welcome New Members

The Permian Basin Speleological Society welcomes Sam and Colin Hunnicutt into our "going lead".

The Hunnicutts are residents of Big Spring, adding to the numbers of our friends in Big Spring.

We look forward to many good trips with the Hunnicutts.

Welcome

Get Re-Bitten by the Caving Bug

One of the burning questions that has long plagued mankind is: What can I do to help my Grotto?

Become involved...or become re-involved (re-bitten).

I know, extra time is becoming non-existent. The cost of travel (gas) is....well, you know.

PBSS is discussing fundraiser events, and would like your input. Before you run screaming into the night, no it won't be a bake sale or car wash. But perhaps a garage sale, or... Remember, without *you* there is no PBSS. Renew your passion (and membership) for good ol' dirty low-down fun.



"PBSS Home Page"

<http://www.caver.net/pbss/pbss.htm>

Built and Maintained by *Bill Bentley*

